



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018 – NO. 136

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## Rose to the Challenge!

On Friday 13th July, five year 7 pupils (Charlie, Swayvon, Rhys, Callum and Krystian) headed off with staff to Cannock Chase to take part in the Challenge event. This year's team of pupils did very well, being the first team to complete the whole circuit. They performed very well as a team at the challenges and were awarded their medals on the finishing line. The course took a different route this year, much hillier and with more problem solving challenges. The team were tired but proud of their achievements. The sponsorship raised by the team is retained and ring fenced by Wide

Horizons (Bryntisilio Centre) until Elmwood has accumulated sufficient money to afford a residential visit there, a true whole School team effort. Well done to Leon Donaldson (teaching assistant) for motivating the pupils on the day! Report by Mr Whittaker Head of Outdoor Learning



## FINAL COFFEE MORNING OF THE SUMMER TERM

Our last coffee morning of the summer term 2018 took place on Tuesday 3rd July at 10.30 am which was a transition event. This allowed new parents/carers to meet with Bev and James, our Family Welfare Officers, and to complete some paperwork. They were welcomed by some of our existing parents/carers as well as parent governors. A huge thank you to all who attended; it is important that new parents feel comfortable and confident in sending their children to Elmwood. We have enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 pupils in September. Report by Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer

## MARVELLOUSME REMINDER

If you have not yet signed up to the free app MarvellousMe, can we please encourage parents and carers to do so. Feedback from parents and carers who have signed up is very positive. It enables you to share in your child's school day and helps support learning and development.

Further information, including individual log in codes for your child, can be obtained from Dawn in the School Office.

Our Family Welfare Officers, Bev and James, will also be happy to help if you have any problems with accessing the site.

## FOODBANK UPDATE



As you will recall, Ollie whilst in Year 7, appealed for donations of food at the end of the summer term to support his local food bank. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the 12 bags of food that Ollie was able to deliver to the Walsall North Foodbank. Ollie was presented with a certificate from the group who were extremely grateful for the goodies which will make a big difference to those less fortunate.



## OUR GIRLS HAVE NAMES

Pupils have been busy voting on names for our three chickens. Following a name drawing exercise in assembly the chickens were named:

Henrietta by Nurture Base  
Olivia by Transition Base  
Annie by Pathways Base

The girls have settled in well and enjoyed their stay with Mr Cross during the summer holidays returning much fatter!

## DIDN'T THEY DO WELL

During the final assembly of the summer term the draw took place for the reading aloud scheme. The winner of the KS3 award was Rhys Humphries and KS4 was Nathan Naylor. The two swimming vouchers donated by Mrs Tuckwell-Allen were also drawn with the lucky recipients being J'Ermiel Riggon and Rhys Leach. Well done to all.

## NEW VEHICLE

On Tuesday 12th June the School took delivery of a new 12 seater minibus.

Praise was forwarded from the Hire Company following the return of our old bus. Previously the School have had to incur charges due to damage caused both internally and externally to returned vehicles however credit was conveyed to staff and pupils for the condition the bus was returned in.

Well done to all concerned and is a testament to the behaviour of our pupils.

## DIARY DATE

A parents/carers coffee morning has been organised for Tuesday 9th October at 9.30 am when PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) training will be delivered starting at 9.30 am. With so many children going on line and parents/carers not being aware of who they are speaking to, it is important that parents/carers are aware of the dangers. Parents Against Child Exploitation will be an informative workshop aimed at supporting families to keep their children safe. Please try and come along when Bev and James, our Family Welfare Officers, will make you very welcome.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Another successful meeting of the school council took place on 20th June 2018. Agenda items included interviews, reading aloud, leadership within school council, chicken naming and school uniform for staff and pupils. AOB raised footballs, soap in toilets, PE equipment, computers, morning activities for girls, taxis and radios. New members joined the existing members for the meeting and all conducted themselves professionally. Copies of school council meeting minutes are available on the student page of the school website.

## SPECIAL GIFT



Mr Whittaker has been working with 3 year old pupils at Fullbrook Nursery during the summer term. Over the eight half day programme the

pupils 'tinkered' woodwork skills using mini tools and bench. They also took apart electrical items to practice screwdriver skills, built little bikes from old CD's. In addition they tried nail and string art, pole lathing, shaved chisels, axes, wooden mechano, created a folding tool board, whittled, sawed and glued!

As a result they have developed skills and communicated concepts about building and problem solving.

Following these very busy but fun sessions Mr Whittaker was presented with the tree above—a lovely keepsake.

STAFFING NEWS

During the summer holidays Hardeep Garcha celebrated a special birthday and was presented with an array of gifts and cards at the end of term to mark the occasion.

Angie Hinckson has joined Year 8a as a supply part time teaching assistant covering for the vacancy created by Norma Hinton’s departure. Angie has soon settled into Elmwood and will be with us for the autumn term.

We were also pleased to welcome our other new appointments of Patrick Hinsley, Ashley Bullock, Jenna Wilkins and Christopher Young to the team.

Mr Hubbard, Headteacher, and Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistant, are currently not in School for personal reasons. During their absence Mr Cross will be covering the role of Acting Headteacher and Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant, will be supporting in Year 7a.

Whole School Vision Experience—12.7.18

Pupils, staff, parents and governors participated in working together on the School’s new vision statement. Ideas were collated during a carousel activity based event and these are now being analysed by the Senior Leadership Team before being shared with the Governing Body. A big thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and ideas for Elmwood in the future.

END OF TERM REWARD TRIPS



Pupils celebrated points achieved during the summer term when they set off on Friday 7th September on their reward trips. Gold students went to Jump Xtreme in Tamworth, silver students chose Drayton Manor Park and bronze enjoyed ice skating. Feedback from all trip leaders was of an excellent day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thank you once again to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager for organising the day.



CELEBRATING TOP ATTENDANCE

During the assembly on Friday 20th July pupils who had achieved 100% attendance for the summer term were rewarded with a certificate and £5 gift voucher. Many congratulations to:

Levi Dingley, Dion Griffin, Charlie Haddock, Miles Hall, Jack Hulse, Rhys Leach, Rico Maritza-Yates and Callum Walker

In addition three members of staff were also congratulated on achieving 100% attendance for the whole academic year who were:

Mr Dan Whittaker, Mr Ashley Holmes and Mr James Hawkins

The men definitely were the winners this year, very well done to all.

## SPORTS DAY—19.7.18



Sports day 2018 will be remembered as the year in which long standing records fell to the hands of one athlete. It was no surprise that the athlete in question

belongs to Murray house who through his and his team mates efforts won the house cup by some margin. So who is this athlete I speak of? Rico is his name and one to be watched as a future star in athletics. He now holds 10 records in the school record books which is a mean feat to hold and with one year left to compete in sports day you can see those records being broken again in 2019. So congratulations to Murray house who retain the house cup and have dominated the inter house competitions in 2018. A mention to the other houses of Wiggins, Ennis and Ainslie who fought hard for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. For myself it was one of the best sports day



we have organised at Elmwood. It was fantastic to give out medals for the first time on our newly purchased podium and see all those proud faces walking around wearing them (medals purchased thanks to our private school fund account). Also a big thank you to the Elmwood PE team who helped organise and run the event. We are looking forward to sports day 2019 already.



A special mention to others who helped make the day so special. Starbucks in Walsall for providing hot refreshments of coffee and hot chocolate, Marissa Wort from Now Education who gave up her time to do face painting and NA Cars, our School Transport provider, organised for 'Bugsy's Superwhippy' ice cream van to drop by and provide a free ice cream to all pupils—which was very well received.



Finally thank you to Fahed and Ethan, Year 11 leavers, who came back to help on the day. The support from parents and carers was also amazing who were able to enjoy not only the lovely weather but also the delicious refreshments. Bev and James, our family welfare team, delivered service with a smile and donations helped to raise £29.31 for school funds. More pictures are on the photo gallery page of the school website.



Report by Mr Hawkes, PE Teacher

## GRAND DESIGNS DAY



This year pupils rotated around nine different work stations across the School where they engaged in a variety of projects to improve the School site. These included tidying up each of the outdoor quad areas, repairing picnic tables, painting the rear of the boiler house, planting foliage to mask the bins area, building of new litter bins for around the grounds, bug houses, stained 'glass' window creations, construction of the mountain bike ramps and see-saws on the field, decorating individual breeze blocks for a planter display, pond refurbishment, new signage at the front of School, preparing new base rooms, amongst many other tasks. Some pupils, along with the visiting Year 6's on the day, took a trip to the allotment. Year 6 pupils also had a DT task planting their own spider plant and decorating their pot in the morning.

The day was very hot and tiring but despite this the pupils took a great pride in their work and the whole site looked very smart the following day, well done Elmwood!

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

